

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GEORGE 00192 261936Z
ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00
INR-05 CIAE-00 INRE-00 /031 W
-----261945Z 055280 /43

O 261850Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4101
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0192

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: GY, PGOV
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S HEALTH

REF: GEORGETOWN 182

SUMMARY: FON MIN WILLS TOLD US THIS MORNING THAT
BURNHAM HAD A MILD HEART ATTACK, BUT HIS SITUATION
WAS NOT SERIOUS. FROM SOME OF WILLS' COMMENTS,
HOWEVER, I SUSPECT THE PM'S CONDITION MAY BE MORE
SERIOUS THAN WILLS WILL SAY OPENLY. END SUMMARY.

1. GOG ISSUED CRYPTIC ANNOUNCEMENT JANUARY 25
THAT PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM, ACTING ON THE ADVISE
OF HIS DOCTORS, HAD DECIDED TO TAKE A PERIOD OF
REST FROM HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES AND DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER PTOLEMY REID WOULD BE ACTING PM. DURING
TLEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH MCCOY, JANUARY 25,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GEORGE 00192 261936Z

FON MIN WILLS DESCRIBED BURNHAM'S PROBLEM AS
"EXHAUSTION."

2. THIS MORNING (JANUARY 26) DURING MY FIRST
POST-RETURN CALL ON WILLS, HE SAID BURNHAM HAD A
"MILD HEART ATTACK" AND WOULD BE OUT OF ACTION
ABOUT A MONTH. BURNHAM'S PLANNED TRIP TO CANADA

AND THE SOVIET UNION (APRIL) HAVE BEEN CANCELLED.

3. WILLS TOLD US THAT BURNHAM'S CONDITION WAS NOT SERIOUS. HOWEVER, AS HE TALKED IN HIS CHARACTERISTIC RAMBLING FASHION, WILLS ALSO USED WORDS SUCH AS "BREAKDOWN" AND AT ONE POINT SAID THAT SOME HIS COLLEAGUES WERE "SCRATCHING AROUND" FOR THE SUCCESSION.

4. COMMENT: I INFER FROM WILLS' WORDS THAT BURNHAM'S SITUATION IS MORE SERIOUS THAN WILLS IS WILLING TO SAY DIRECTLY. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, DURING MY MEETINGS WITH BURNHAM AFTER THE CUBANA AIRLINER CRASH, HE SOMETIMES APPEARED TO BE ON THE VERGE OF MENTAL AND PHYSICAL EXHAUSTION. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE HEARD REPORTS THAT BURNHAM, WHO IN THE PAST WAS SAID TO GET BY WITH 4-5 HOURS OF SLEEP, HAS BEEN SLEEPING NO MORE THAN ONE TO THREE HOURS PER NIGHT. HIS PRESENT INCAPACITATION THEREFORE IS NOT SURPRISING.
BLACKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, MEDICAL CARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GEORGE00192
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770028-0874
Format: TEL
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770117/aaaaaoxn.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6e3108d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 GEORGETOWN 182
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3499318
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER'S HEALTH
TAGS: PGOV, GY, (BURNHAM, L F S)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6e3108d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009